



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of Natural History*

Philip L. Ravenhill papers

Lorain Wang

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Philip L. Ravenhill papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.2010-25
<b>Date:</b>	1953-1979 (bulk 1970-1973)
<b>Extent:</b>	1.7 Linear feet (4 document boxes and 5 sound recordings plus 1 map folder )
<b>Creator:</b>	Timyan, Judith
<b>Language:</b>	Primarily English. Some materials are in Wan, Baule, and French.
<b>Summary:</b>	These papers of Philip L. Ravenhill primarily document the period during which he was a graduate student at the New School for Social Research and contain his field research on the Wan and neighboring groups in the Ivory Coast. There are also some some research files of Judith Timyan, whom Ravenhill was married to at the time.

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by his former wife, Judith Timyan.

### Related Collections

Philip L. Ravenhill's curatorial records are at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives of the National Museum of African Art holds photographs from Ravenhill's research trip to Mali in 1989.

### Processing Note

The papers of Philip L. Ravenhill were received unarranged. The processing archivist rehoused the collection in archival folders and organized the folders in alphabetical order. Original folder titles were retained with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. Sound recordings were not reviewed to confirm contents. Sound recording numbers were assigned by the archivist.

Processed by Lorain Wang, April 2012.

### Preferred Citation

Philip L. Ravenhill papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

## Restrictions on Access

No restrictions on access.

## Restrictions on Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

Philip L. Ravenhill was the chief curator of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art, where he worked from 1987 until his death in 1997. He was born in 1945 in Bath, England. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Nyack College (1968) and his Ph.D. in anthropology from the New School for Social Research (1976), where he studied under Thomas O. Beidelman. As a doctoral student, he conducted field research on the Wan in the central Ivory Coast. He had initially intended to study interethnic relations between the Wan and the Baule. Due to a flood that forced many of the Baule villages to relocate, Ravenhill focused his research on the social organization of the Wan. Prior to joining the Smithsonian, he was a senior research fellow at the International African Institute in London and project director of the West African Museums Project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

### Source Consulted

Cotter, Holland. 1997. Philip L. Ravenhill, 52, Expert On the Art and Culture of Africa. *The New York Times*, October 16. <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/10/16/arts/philip-l-ravenhill-52-expert-on-the-art-and-culture-of-africa.html> (accessed April 5, 2012).

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## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip L. Ravenhill primarily document the period during which he was a graduate student at the New School for Social Research. The collection contains his field research on the Wan, including linguistic notes and notebooks with interlinear translations of Wan folktales and proverbs; archival and bibliographic research; field recordings; and a draft of his dissertation. The collection also contains his research on neighboring groups in the Ivory Coast, including the Baule, as well as some research files of Judith Timyan, whom Ravenhill was married to at the time. Additional materials includes correspondence, course papers and exams, grant applications, and maps.

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## Arrangement

Folders are arranged in alphabetical order. The sound recordings are at the end.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baule (African people)  
Language and languages -- Documentation  
Linguistics  
Wan (African People)

Cultures:

Baule (African people)  
Wan (African People)

Geographic Names:

Ivory Coast

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## Container Listing

- Box 1 Archives Documentation, undated
- Box 1 Bibliography of Ivoirien Ethnography, etc., undated
- Box 1 Collection of Baoule Phrases, undated
- Box 1 [Correspondence w/ Rene Bravmann], 1975
- Box 1 [Correspondence with T.O. Beidelman], 1974, undated
- Box 1 Data Sheets Project, 1972, undated  
Baule (submitted by Judith Timyan) and Anyi
- Box 1 [Draft of "The Social Organization of the Wan: a Patrilineal People of Ivory Coast", 1 of 2], undated  
Dissertation
- Box 1 [Draft of "The Social Organization of the Wan: a Patrilineal People of Ivory Coast", 2 of 2], undated
- Box 1 Fiche no. 1, undated
- Box 1 Fiche no. 3, undated
- Box 1 [Field notebook] , 1973 January 16-April 18  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\] : 1973 January 16-April 18](#)
- Box 1 [Field notebook], 1973 February 2-April 6  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1973 February 2-April 6](#)
- Box 1 [Field notebook], 1973 April 9 – August 6  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1973 April 9 – August 6](#)
- Box 1 [Field notebook], 1973 April 20-June 2  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1973 April 20-June 2](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook], 1973 June 8-August 10  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1973 June 8-August 10](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook], 1973 August 10-November 9

- [Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1973 August 10-November 9](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook] E5, 1973 November 9-1974 January 8  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\] E5: 1973 November 9-1974 January 8](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook], 1974 January 10-March 26  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\]: 1974 January 10-March 26](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook] E7, 1974 March 27-June 21  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\] E7: 1974 March 27-June 21](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook] E #8, 1974 June 26-September 13  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\] E #8: 1974 June 26-September 13](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook] E #9, 1974 September 16-24  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook\] E #9: 1974 September 16-24](#)
- Box 2 [Field notebook -- linguistic notes], undated  
[Image\(s\): \[Field notebook -- linguistic notes\]: undated](#)
- Box 2 Finances -- Philip Ravenhill, 1972-1974
- Box 2 [French and Wan vocabulary], undated
- Box 2 [Grant applications], 1972-1975
- Box 2 Index, undated
- Box 2 [Kalabari religion], undated
- Box 2 Les Langues Mandé-Sud du Groupe Mana-Busa by R.P.A. Prost, 1953
- Box 3 [Letters authorizing Ravenhill and his wife, Judith, to conduct research in the Ivory Coast], 1972-1974
- Box 3 Mambu, undated  
Notes on Tangu --reading notes on Mambu: A Melanesian Millennium by Kenelth Burridge
- Folder Map Folder [Map of Rive Droite Nord du Bandama], undated
- Folder Map Folder [Map of Yoboue N'Zue], undated
- Box 3 N.S. Correspondence, 1970-1972

New School for Social Research

- Box 3 [Ngin, Wan, Mona, Yaouré survey report], 1974
- Box 3 [Notes on Wan for Hunter lecture ("Language & Culture" course)], undated
- Box 3 [Outline of areas of concentration for oral examination], circa 1970s  
Ravenhill and Thomas R. Moore's outlines
- Box 3 [Paramaka religions], undated
- Box 3 [Ravenhill's graded test for Cosmology & Religion, taught by T.O. Beidelman],  
1979
- Box 3 [References and reading notes], undated
- Box 3 [Religious Utterances and the Theory of Speech Acts], 1972
- Box 3 Proverbs, undated
- Box 3 Proverbs [1], undated
- Box 3 Proverbs [2], undated
- Box 3 [Report of Wan research to Institut d'Ethno-sociologie], circa 1974
- Box 3 [Report on visit to building site of the new village of Bourebo], 1973  
Judith Timyan served as translator between the villagers and government  
officials
- Box 3 A revised word list of Wan, 1973
- Box 3 Riddles -- Tape I, undated
- Box 3 Social Organization of the Wan, undated
- Box 3 Some notes on the phonology of Wan, 1973
- Box 3 Tangu, undated
- Box 3 [Unidentified aerial photograph], undated
- Box 3 [Various notes], 1974, undated



- Includes notes for articles, kinship charts, notes on audio recordings
- Box 3 [Visa request], 1974
- Box 3 [Wan (?) language notes], undated
- Box 3 [Wan language -- Data Sheets Project], 1974
- Box 4 Wan Stories [2 -- 4], circa 1973  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 02: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 03: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 04: circa 1973](#)
- Box 4 Wan Stories [5 -- 7], circa 1973  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 05: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 06: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 07: circa 1973](#)
- Box 4 Wan Stories [8 -- 10], circa 1973  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 08: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 09: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 10: circa 1973](#)
- Box 4 Wan Stories [11, 14], circa 1973  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 11: circa 1973](#)  
[Image\(s\): Wan Stories 14: circa 1973](#)
- Box 4 William Wade Harris, Bernus #345, Paulme #382, undated
- Box 4, Item 1 [Recording] Wā -- Historical Accounts 1, undated  
*1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape)*  
*Cassette tape*  
[Audio: Ravenhill SR 1 side 1: undated](#)  
[Audio: Ravenhill SR 1 side 2: undated](#)  
A) Tugalani --Goli/origin of Wā - Kāngōsei (birth, wars) Wā in current site --  
Myāme & KĒŋmū --Gloŋ --adoration and totems of earth Bōwli Kale - Kāngōsei  
(birth, war, disappearance) - Myāme & KĒŋmū  
B) Bōwli Kale --margouillat --Goli to Baoule --earth (totems & adoration --war  
w. whites --Chef de Canton of KĒŋmū --Wā at Gyemisia --Wā at present site --  
origin of ea. Mask --origin of [?]lemū
- Box 4, Item 2 [Recording] Wā -- Historical Accounts 2, undated  
*1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape.)*  
*Cassette tape*  
[Audio: Ravenhill SR 2 side 1: undated](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 2 side 2: undated](#)

A) Bowli Kale --Songs, origins

B) Bowli Kale

Box 4, Item 3

[Recording] Wan -- Historical Accounts 3, undated

*1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape.)*

*Cassette tape*

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 3 side 1: undated](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 3 side 2: undated](#)

A) C/A: Mvs K/ - Gouro vs Wan --war at Kovatta --Wan killed D. Béoumi Tuglani: M vs. K --Dɔgbe Gblɛngble quarrel --Agbao/Boueaba quarrel --Wan, Gourd quarrel, war with Dyula (provoked by KS) --M.K. vs K.S. --whites @ Bourébo -- Myunu act Kɛŋmũ

B) Tuglani : Agwa --Yonɛ, Zetɛ: M and K papaya -; Mus K. --KS war -- Disappearance of K.S. --birth of K.S. Nfoo --Disappearance of K.S., Blacks and whites myth --origin of death

Box 4, Item 4

[Recording] Toto Kro , Feb 1974 Atsnule Songs, 1973-1974

*1 Sound tape reel (5 in.)*

*5" audio reel*

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 4 side 1: 1973-1974](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 4 side 2: 1973-1974](#)

A: 17 Dec. 73 Men's Songs at house-plastering --Toto Kro 00-90, 14 14 Jan. Wisemen's [?] Songs at pond cleaning

B: Toto Kro 1 Feb 1974 Atsnule songs

Box 4, Item 5

[Recording] Wan Historical Accounts -- Chief, undated

*1 Sound tape reel (5 in.)*

*5" audio reel, 1 7/8 ips?, tails out*

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 5: undated](#)